

Practical Medicine Series, 1913. Vol. VI. General Medicine. Edited by Frank Billings, M. S., M. D., and J. H. Salisbury, A. M., M. D.

The review opens with a very good synopsis of Vaccine Therapy. Blood cultures in fevers of obscure origin are advocated. In typhoid, the prophylactic injections are not mentioned. The emetine treatment of amoebic dysentery is one of the newer things described.

The application of radiography in the diagnosis of diseases of the gastro-intestinal tract is well discussed and illustrated, though the conclusions seem rather more definite than those in the latest literature on this subject.

The chapter on gastric and duodenal ulcer is very complete and quite moderate in the conclusions arrived at.

In considering constipation the reviewers announce their disapproval of the Lane operation and give reasons therefor.

Though the ground covered in this volume has been confined to the acute infections and diseases of the gastro-intestinal tract, liver, pancreas and spleen, there is a great mass of interesting material presented in a very clear and moderate way.

G. H. T.

Essentials of Prescription Writing. By Cary Eggleston, M. D., Instructor in Pharmacology, Cornell University Medical College, New York City. 32mo. of 115 pages. W. B. Saunders Company, 1913. Cloth, \$1.00 net. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, London.

A small duodecimo of a little more than a 100 pages gives the "Essentials of Prescription Writing," concisely and in a very few words. In fact, the writer questions whether a few extra words, and a few more sentences, would not have made the work a little more impressive and a little more interesting. More attention than usual has been paid to the Metric System, and its application. A good and full explanation of the so-called "Standard" prescription and the ease with which it can be applied in converting the average apothecaries' prescription to a metric one is commendable and may be one of the means of making the metric more popular. The chapters on Vehicles, Incompatibilities, Doses, etc., follow only too concisely the usual writings on these subdivisions. All in all it carries out its object—it "Provides the student of medicine with a succinct treatment of the subject of prescription writing." A. L. L.

Syphilis and the Nervous System. By Max Nonne. Translated by Ball. Published by Lippincott, Philadelphia, 1913.

The English translation of Ball should bring this valuable second edition into wide use in this country.

More light could have been thrown on the subject of basilar meningitis and its symptomatology in view of much recent work.

In the discussion of polyuria and polydipsia on page 97, of glycosuria and polyuria on page 151 and of diabetes insipidus on page 153 as symptoms of basilar meningitis no explanation for their occurrence of significance is attempted.

For the most part these are all expressions of hypophyseal involvement and may be caused as well by any other lesion as by lues. If the basilar syphilis affects the interpeduncular as is common, the result is the same as if some other growth occurs there.

The chapters on the reactions and on therapy give one a sound working basis which comes with

a sense of relief after the numerous current articles which too often make exaggerated and positive statements based on a few unusual coincidents.

H. C. Naffziger.

A Clinic Manual of Mental Diseases. By Francis X. Dercum. W. B. Saunders Co., 1913.

This work of 425 pages deals essentially with the clinical aspect of mental disease and presents in concise form the views of the well-known Philadelphia neurologist and psychiatrist. There is something refreshingly personal in the author's presentation of his subject, and this, together with a rather unusual classification, gives the work a distinctive character. For the practising physician Dercum believes that the understanding of mental disease will be made more easy by the aid of internal medicine than by psychologic interpretation, and following this opinion prominence is given in Part III of the work to a chapter on "The Clinical Forms of Mental Disease Related to the Somatic Affections" and a second chapter on "Mental Disease Related to Age." For the group of mental states commonly designated as Psychasthenias Dercum proposes the term "Neurasthenic-Neuropathic Insanities," intending to convey by this expression the condition as he sees it: neuropathy plus nervous exhaustion. The Freudian sexual theory is discussed at some length but does not meet with the approval of the author, although the importance of buried symptoms complexes in the etiology of abnormal mental states is admitted. The final chapter takes up the question of treatment, extra mural as well as intra mural treatment being considered. Prophylactic treatment in children suffering from neuropathic heredity is considered of prime importance. The need of a psychopathic hospital for acute cases in every large city is emphasized.

W. F. S.

Surgery of the Eye. A Hand-book for Students and Practitioners. By Ervin Török, M. D., Surgeon to the New York Ophthalmic and Aural Institute; Ophthalmic Surgeon to Beth Israel Hospital; Consulting Ophthalmologist to the Tarrytown Hospital, and Gerald H. Grout, M. D., Assistant Surgeon to the New York Ophthalmic and Aural Institute; Instructor in the Eye Department, Vanderbilt Clinic; Consulting Ophthalmologist to the Bellevue Hospital, First Division. Octavo, 507 pages, with 509 original illustrations, 101 in colors, and 2 colored plates. Cloth, \$4.50, net. Lea & Febiger, Publishers, Philadelphia and New York, 1913.

After looking through this handy volume, one feels inclined to agree on the whole with Dr. Arnold Knapp's impression—given in a one-page introduction to the work—that the arrangement of the subject matter is simple and practical and the text clear and brief. Of the wealth of illustrations, the clear and numerous cuts of instruments distributed freely throughout the text would seem to be an especially serviceable arrangement for the beginner. We cannot grant the same commendation, however, to many of the liberally given illustrations of the operative procedures, especially amongst the photographs. In far too many of the latter, purporting to give details of technic, the main raison d'être of the illustration, the bulbus itself, is so indistinct and small as to be absolutely without any real meaning to the reader not already familiar with the procedure. Instead of packing the volume with such photographs, purporting to aid the student, it would seem to us that a future edition of the book, as an elementary treatise, would gain decidedly by the use of prominent